



Brazoria County Historical Museum

100 E. Cedar, Angleton TX 77515
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Juneteenth

Two years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, freedom for enslaved people in Texas came when the US Army issued General Order No. 3 in Galveston on June 19, 1865:



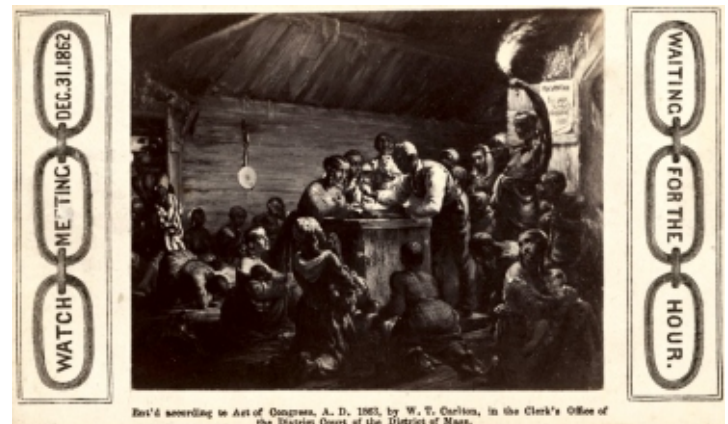
[Official.]
HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF TEXAS, }
GALVESTON TEXAS, JUNE 19, 1865. }

General Orders, No. 3.
The people are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property, between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them, becomes that between employer and hired labor.— The Freedmen are advised to remain at their present homes, and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts; and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere. By order of
Major-General GRANGER.
(Signed,) F. W. EMERY, Maj. & A. J. G.



The anniversary of this proclamation became the holiday of Juneteenth, celebrated in Texas for decades before slowly becoming a more national phenomena. Grace Murray Stephenson/Austin History Center

Abolitionists published broadsides like this to maintain pressure in the north to enforce the emancipation proclamation.



“The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer.”

Major General Gordon Granger, June 19, 1865



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Lews Horns

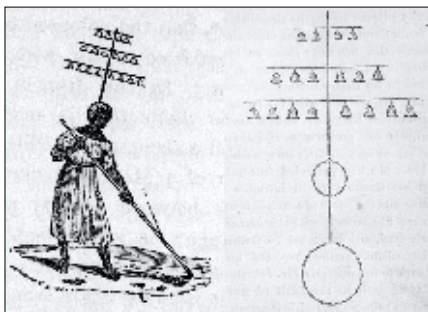
While enslaved on the Mims Plantation, Lew attempted to run away. He was caught and punished with a set of “horns” riveted around his neck. Juneteenth allowed him to end this cruel punishment.



The Mims Plantation was located on the San Bernard River between the towns of Brazoria and Sweeney.

Upon learning of his freedom in June of 1865, Lew asked a friend to help him remove the horns from around his neck. Lew laid down with his neck braced on a tree root and held a chisel to the rivet, while his friend swung a sledge hammer to break the rivet and free him.

Afterwards the two men walked away, leaving the horns behind. Years later, a family friend heard this story and found the horns buried in the dirt at the base of the tree.



Horns were a common punishment for runaways and came in a variety of forms. Lew’s Horns show evidence that they were manufactured on a jig. This indicates that they were mass produced.

Similar forms of punishment include bells and hooks, which allowed overseers to keep track of the enslaved. The iron would rub and irritate the skin, causing sores and skin infections. In addition, it was nearly impossible to sleep as the horns kept the enslaved persons head tilted.

